United Nations S/2000/439

Security Council

Distr.: General
17 May 2000
English
Original: Arabic

Identical letters dated 15 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 14 May 2000 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the ongoing United States and British aggression against Iraq and to the fact that United States and British aircraft carried out 200 sorties in the period from 29 April to 7 May 2000 in which they bombed civilian installations in the country, wounding three citizens. The Minister urges you to intervene with a view to halting such aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Saeed H. **Hasan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

00-43586 (E) 170500 170500

Annex to the identical letters dated 15 May 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council

I should like to inform you that United States and British warplanes based in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey have continued to violate the airspace of the Republic of Iraq and carried out 200 sorties in the period from 29 April to 7 May 2000. Eighty-four of these sorties were from Saudi Arabia, 62 were from Kuwait and 54 were from Turkey, as shown hereunder.

1. In the northern region 54 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 6,000 to 12,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1100 hours on 30 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 14 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Ayn Zalah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1400 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1100 hours on 2 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 24 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Zakho, Ayn Zalah, Amadiyah, Mosul, Aqrah, Tall Afar, Irbil North and Sinjar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1335 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1215 hours on 3 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Turkish territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the northern region. They carried out 16 missions from Turkish territory, were supported by an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Turkish airspace and overflew the Dohuk, Amadiyah, Tall Afar, Mosul and Ayn Zalah areas. They bombed services-related areas in Mosul city, wounding three citizens. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1345 hours, drove them off.

2. In the southern region 146 sorties were flown at speeds of 720 to 780 kilometres per hour and at altitudes of 9,000 to 13,000 metres, as follows:

(a) At 1600 hours on 30 April 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Salman, Nasiriyah, Basrah, Amarah, Jalibah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1700 hours, drove them off.

(b) At 1800 hours on 1 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 18 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and four from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Nukhayb, Lasaf, Jalibah and Busayyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1850 hours, drove them off.

(c) At 1450 hours on 2 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, F-16, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 28 missions, 10 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 18 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Jalibah, Ashbajah, Taqtaqanah, Shinafiyah, Qurnah, Artawi, Basrah, Amarah, Qal'at Salih, Shatrah, Ali al-Gharbi and Qal'at Sukkar areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1610 hours, drove them off.

(d) At 1155 hours on 3 May 2000, United States and British F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Amarah, Basrah, Salman, Hayy and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1450 hours, drove them off.

(e) At 1125 hours on 6 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 22 missions, 12 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C command and control aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Basrah, Salman, Busayyah, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Sukkar, Qurnah, Nukhayb East, Diwaniyah, Najaf and Jalibah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1235 hours, drove them off.

(f) At 1022 hours on 7 May 2000, United States and British F-14, F-15, Tornado and EA-6B aircraft coming from Saudi and Kuwaiti territory penetrated Iraq's airspace in the southern region. They carried out 26 missions, 16 of them from Saudi territory with the support of an AWACS command and control aircraft operating inside Saudi airspace and 10 from Kuwaiti territory with the support of an E-2C aircraft operating inside Kuwaiti airspace. They overflew the Samawah, Nasiriyah, Lasaf, Basrah, Salman, Ashbajah, Shinafiyah, Qal'at Salih, Qurnah, Diwaniyah, Taqtaqanah and Hashimiyah areas. Our air defences, acting in self-defence, engaged the aircraft and, at 1130 hours, drove them off.

This aggression illustrates the bellicose attitude being maintained by the United States of America and the United Kingdom against Iraq. Since 1992, it has become a fixed policy aimed at undermining the country's sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity and at the systematic and concerted destruction of Iraqi lives, infrastructure and civilian installations.

The Government of Iraq categorically rejects the two so-called no-flight zones, which were imposed by unilateral decision of the United States of America and the United Kingdom and lack any legal basis. Iraq rejects all the consequences of this illegal decision and, in particular, the flimsy excuses and pretexts used by these countries in an attempt to justify their military aggression against our country.

The logistic support provided by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Turkey to the Americans and the British makes these countries key partners in the aggression being committed against Iraq, so that they bear international responsibility for actions that are deleterious to the people of Iraq.

The Government of Iraq, condemning these wanton acts of aggression, urges you to intervene with the governments of the countries in question with a view to inducing them to halt their attacks and to respect the norms of international law and the sovereignty of Iraq.

(*Signed*) Mohammed Said **Al-Sahaf**
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq